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ARGENTINA

3.5(c) Hard-line Argentine military officers are trying to force President Videla to take a tougher stand on subversion and a variety of other issues. This could confront Videla with serious human rights problems and divisions within the military.

3.5(c) Videla and advisers who share his moderate and methodical approach toward national reform are trying to curb the arbitrary arrests by police and armed forces security services, compile a list of those detained, and halt vigilante-style activities against suspected and known leftists by semiofficial death squads.

3.5(c) //Some of Videla's subordinates also are attempting to work with Peronist labor and political leaders in the hope

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of eventually building a base of popular support for the military government. To accomplish this they reportedly believe that government economic policies will have to become more "populist" in orientation and provide for a more equitable distribution of wealth.//

3.5(c) Hard-liners opposed to these and other government proposals--ranging from ambassadorial appointments to revising foreign investment laws--include a number of high-ranking army officers who have a sympathetic junta member in Admiral Emilio Massera.

3.5(c) //Massera and his army colleagues do not appear bent on ousting Videla as President, but rather are determined to force moderates out of the President's circle of advisers.// Only then, they apparently reason, can the government impose discipline on the labor force, destroy the influence of corrupt and irresponsible politicians, and eliminate the well-entrenched leftists.

3.5(c) The junta's image is already suffering from its inability to control right-wing terrorism. Moreover, labor and political leaders are increasingly concerned about Videla's inability to enforce the moderate line he promised on taking office.

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